

Amendments to the Abstract

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ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to an approach to establish the clinical utility of a molecular target comprising bringing a large quantity of different tissue samples into contact, in a high-throughput manner, with a stain that specifically binds a target molecule *in situ*, and then determining the extent to which the stain has bound the target molecule in the tissue samples. To this end, an apparatus can be employed that comprises (i) a tissue microarray, having hundreds of small tissue samples upon which reagents may be applied; (ii) an automated staining instrument for applying reagents to the tissue samples and then carrying out most of the steps required for *in situ* hybridization and immunohistochemistry, and (iii) an imaging instrument to allow a user to readily ascertain the presence and/or the quantity of target in each of the samples.